

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks.  
Claims 1-37 are pending, with claims 1, 22, and 30 being independent. No new matter is added.

**Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Claims 1-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being rejected by Appelman WO 97138434 in view of Hurtado et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,812). Applicant previously filed a Petition on February 13, 2006, to correct a priority claim. This Petition was dismissed on August 27, 2006, for failing to include the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 CFR(a)(2)(i) of the prior filed applications. A final Office action relying on the dismissed petition was mailed on September 7, 2006.

Applicant has submitted a revised declaration, an amendment, and a petition under 37 CFR 1.178(a)2 to correct the priority claim on September 27, 2006. Appelman was improperly cited as a priority document in the declaration and on the first page of the application as U.S. Application No. 08/630,846, filed April 11, 1996. Applicant has revised the priority claim. In particular, Application notes that the specification has been amended to also reference U.S. Application No. 09/371,208, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/630,846.

U.S. Application No. 08/630,846 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,112,250 on August 29, 2000, but pendency to the parent case was maintained through U.S. Application No. 09/371,208, which was filed on August 10, 1999. U.S. Application No. 09/371,208 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,112,250 on May 7, 2002, which is after Applicant's filing date.

As a result of the changes to the priority claim, the rejection of Claims 1-37 is obviated because Appelman does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Thus, Appelman's teachings cannot be relied upon in formulating a 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

Because the rejection of claims 1-37 was based on Applicant's priority document and is now longer available as prior art, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-37 is respectfully

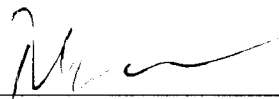
Applicant : Barry Appelman  
Serial No. : 09/873,272  
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Page : 8 of 8

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-054001 / Network 02

requested. No fee is believed to be due. However, please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Thomas A. Rozylowicz  
Reg. No. 50,620

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
1425 K Street, N.W.  
11th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005-3500  
Telephone: (202) 783-5070  
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331